

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the preceding amendments and following remarks, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3-10 and 12-14 are pending in this application. Claims 1 and 12 have been amended and claims 2 and 11 are cancelled. Claims 1 and 12 are the independent claims. Claims 7-10 and 14 have been withdrawn from consideration.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's acknowledgment that claims 11-13 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have amended claim 1 to include all the limitations of claim 11 and any intervening claims, and amended claim 12 to include all the limitations of the base claim 1 and any intervening claims. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 3-6 and 12-13 are in condition for allowance.

Rejoinder of Non-Elected Claims

Applicants submit that claims 7-10 and 14 should be rejoined and allowed as claims 7-10 and 14 depend either directly or indirectly on allowable claims 1 and 12. Therefore, withdrawal of the restriction requirement is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above remarks and amendments, the Applicants respectfully submit that each of the pending objections and rejections has been addressed and overcome, placing the present application in condition for allowance. A notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), Applicants hereby petition for a two (2) month extension of time for filing a reply to the outstanding Office Action and submit the required \$490.00 extension fee herewith.

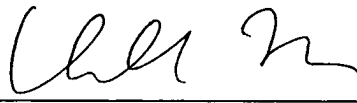
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Erin G. Hoffman, Reg. No. 57,752, at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

HARNESS, DICKY, & PIERCE, P.L.C.

By



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